

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/642,963

Examiner

Geoffrey S Evans

Applicant(s)

OSBORNE, MARTIN

Art Unit

1725

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the filing of the application.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-26.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 14 August 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 20031117
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Geoffrey S Evans
Geoffrey S Evans
Primary Examiner
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REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The acronym "EDM" used in the claims is considered to mean "Electric Discharge Machining". Anderson in U.S. Patent No. 3,878,353 and Bagdal in U.S. Patent No. 5,117,081 disclose discharge machining of rotating rolls. Paillarse in U.S. Patent No. 2,938,104 discloses discharge machining of a gear that is rotated on a spindle. Briffod in U.S. Patent No. 4,134,807 discloses machining by EDM, followed by finish machining by ECM. Sakagami et al. in Japan Patent No. 6-91,432 discloses using an electrolytic complex buffing process using electrode (14) in an electrolytic solution to buff a wheel. None of the other references of record provide motivation to adapt the Sakagami et al. reference with discharge machining instead of electrolytic machining. Since Sakagami et al. discloses using an electrolytic solution, the statement in the translated abstract of "electric discharge machining" is considered to be an error, since Electric Discharge Machining (EDM) requires a dielectric fluid and not a conductive fluid such as an electrolytic solution. Regarding claims 1-9, none of the references of record discloses or suggests, alone or in combination, An Electric Discharge Machining apparatus comprising: a dielectric fluid bath, and a movable support structure, said support structure adapted to support and rotate a vehicle wheel mounted upon said support structure. Regarding claims 10-25, none of the references of record discloses or suggests, alone or in combination, a method of machining a vehicle wheel comprising the following steps: (a) providing an EDM apparatus, said EDM apparatus including a movable support structure, the support structure including a spindle and the support

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structure being electrically connected to the ground, the EDM apparatus further including an electrode having a discharge surface immersed in a dielectric fluid bath; (b) mounting a vehicle wheel having an axis of rotation and an annular rim section having a rim surface coaxially disposed about the axis of rotation, upon the support structure; immersing the vehicle wheel in the dielectric fluid bath; rotating the vehicle wheel; applying a voltage to the electrode; moving the vehicle wheel to a position proximate the electrode such that the wheel is machined. Regarding claim 26, none of the references of record discloses or suggests, alone or in combination, a method of machining a vehicle wheel comprising the following steps: mounting the vehicle wheel upon an EDM apparatus having a movable support structure, the support structure including a spindle, the EDM apparatus further including an electrode having a discharge surface immersed in a dielectric fluid bath; immersing the vehicle wheel in the dielectric fluid bath; rotating the vehicle wheel; applying a voltage to the electrode; moving the vehicle wheel to a position proximate the electrode such that the wheel is machined.

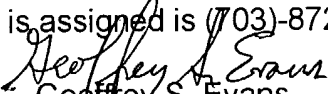
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Geoffrey S Evans whose telephone number is (571)-272-1174. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 6:30AM to 4:00 PM, alternate Fridays off.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tom Dunn can be reached on (571)-272-1171. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703)-872-9306.

GSE


Geoffrey S. Evans

Primary Examiner

Group 1700